

## **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 104**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40—Relative to speech-language pathologists.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 24, 2007.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SCR 40, Ackerman. Speech-language pathologists: shortage.

This measure would requests the Governor and all state agencies to work together to alleviate the critical shortage of speech-language pathologists in the state.

WHEREAS, Speech-language pathologists provide essential services to the children of California, including children with autism; and

WHEREAS, The critical shortage of speech-language pathologists in public schools is affecting the ability of school districts to provide special education speech and language services to students, including children with autism; and

WHEREAS, The number of children with autism in the United States increased from 12,222 in the 1992–93 school year to 141,002 in the 2003–04 school year according to the United States Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, The number of children with autism in California public schools increased from 1,605 in the 1992–93 school year to 29,370 in the 2004–05 school year according to the State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, The large increase in the number of children with autism has increased the demand for the services of speech-language pathologists in the public schools; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Labor projects that more than 34,000 additional speech-language pathologists will be needed to fill the demand nationwide between the years 2000 and 2010; and

WHEREAS, It is projected that more than 57,000 speech-language pathologist job openings between the years 2000 and 2010 will be available due to growth and net replacements; and

WHEREAS, The shortage of speech-language pathologists could lead to an increase in special education litigation in public schools; and

WHEREAS, Ensuring an adequate supply of high quality speech-language pathologists is critical to the success of students served under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

WHEREAS, Forty-nine percent of school based speech-language pathologists are 45 years of age or older and will be eligible to retire in the next 15 years; and

WHEREAS, There are only 15 university programs in the state that provide master's degree training for speech-language pathologists; and

WHEREAS, A survey by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association indicated that 85 school districts in the state reported that they need over 222 speech-language pathologists; and

WHEREAS, A 2006 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association survey reported that 68 percent of school-based speech-language pathologists indicated that job openings were more numerous than job seekers in their school districts; and

WHEREAS, This survey also indicated that in the 1999–2000 academic year there were 11,148 job openings for speech-language pathologists in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Fifty-nine percent of respondents to this survey reported that the shortage of speech-language pathologists was making it difficult for them to fill job openings; and

WHEREAS, At present, the colleges and universities in the state are producing an insufficient number of speech-language pathologists to fill existing job openings; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature requests the Governor and all state agencies to work together to alleviate the critical shortage of speech-language pathologists in the state; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Regents of the University of California, the Trustees of the California State University, the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and to private universities operating in the state.